

Board of Health Report – February 5th, 2020

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies to participate.
 - *Recent and Upcoming Meetings: January 27th and February 24th from 5:30-6:30pm.*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members are working to finalize the fifth "Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA" report, which focuses on HIV and opioid-overdose risk factors in Lowell. The Data Subcommittee is also working to create a "2019 Summary" report that reviews data for fatal and nonfatal opioid overdoses, as well as highlights successes of our community partners.
- Continuing to co-lead Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee released a press release highlighting winter weather risk factors for opioid overdose.
- Continuing to working to identify a specific documentation system to demonstrate how the Substance Abuse Coordinator (SAC) position and the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division have impacted the Lowell Health Department and provider community. This information is important to incorporate into grant reporting as the SAC position has positively expanded beyond the expectations written into the grant.

Lowell CO-OP and Related Efforts:

- Lainnie continues to be involved in administrative planning for the Lowell CO-OP, including co-facilitating Lowell CO-OP Supervisors Meetings and working with team and grant partners to ensure effectiveness of the team.
- Lainnie and Maricia, the Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, held first and second round interviews for the Clinical Recovery Specialist position. A candidate recommendation has been made.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Managing daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.
- Lainnie continues to be the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org. Marketing materials have been designed and are being distributed to partners in Greater Lowell, which include an email signature, social medial images, 11x18 foam boards, business cards, and pens.
- Lainnie will be attending the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Annual National Leadership Forum from February 3rd through February 7th. Expenses are paid for by the Tewksbury Substance Abuse Prevention Collaboration, which Lainnie is a member of.
- Lainnie is continuing to work with colleagues from Tufts University and Trinity EMS to work on a scientific research paper examining how EMS interacts with patients prior to experiencing a fatal overdose.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

*** Lainnie Emond will oversee the MOAPC Grant through the end of the grant cycle, June 30th, 2019. ***

Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster): Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.

- No updates at this time.

Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):

- Several organizations within the MOAPC cluster offer Narcan training and Narcan kits.

Drug Free Greater Lowell Website

- www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org is live. The MOAPC grant funded informational business cards and other outreach materials to promote the website.

Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal

- The Lowell Health Department is hosting its first Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal day on March 10th from 2-6pm at 341 Pine Street, Lowell, MA.

Other

- Began discussion with MOAPC Coalition and grant funder to hire a contractor to analyze data, wrap up the MOAPC grant, and assess the current status of the MOAPC coalition via something similar to a SWAT analysis. More information to follow.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

*** Lainnie Emond will act as interim coordinator of the PFS grant until the position is filled. ***

Strategy One (social media and education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):

PFS Social Media Campaign:

- Social media campaign has been placed on hold until a new PFS Coordinator is hired.

Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):

“Help Keep Our Kids Safe” Campaign

-Community Health Coordinator, Kate Elkins, has completed a two-sided handout giving tips on the proper storage of prescription medication as well as identifying medication disposal sites in Lowell. Kate worked with a contracted graphic designer to create the handout format, and worked with Lainnie to create the handout content. This handout will be distributed to the general public with a specific focus on parents/caregivers of local youth. This handout has been sent to Lowell PFS’s assigned BSAS Grant Contract Manager and Technical Assistance Liaison for final approval.

Monthly Meeting:

The January coalition meeting was postponed until February 26th from 1-2pm at the Lowell Health Department.

Outreach Health Educator Position:

A candidate recommendation has been made to Human Resources.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

Lowell CO-OP Data 2019

| -- | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Total Encounters | 78 | 76 | 32 | 47 | 88 | 58 | 41 | 48 | 74 | 33 | 41 | 51 | 667 |
| Unique Encounters | -- | 37 | 28 | 29 | 52 | 34 | 28 | 36 | 53 | 16 | 34 | 31 | 378 |
| Initial Interaction | -- | 9 | 6 | 9 | 17 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 12 | 2 | 15 | 7 | 100 |
| OD Follow-Up | 2 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 17 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 29 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 116 |
| Section 35 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 20 |
| Clinical Clients | 7 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 40 |
| Disseminate Narcan | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 4 | 20 | 5 | 25 | 5 | 37 | 23 | 141 |
| SUD Treatment | 11 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 14 | 22 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 158 |
| Medical Treatment | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 33 |
| Other Services | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 47 |
| Misc. Outreach | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 156 | 223 | 464 | 71 | 72 | 132 | 463 | 1581 |

Outreach and Educational Events

| Date | Event Type | Location | Topic | Attendance |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| 12-9-2019 | Presentation | UMass Lowell; Criminal Justice Class | CO-OP Services | 20 |

Relationship Building

| Date | Organization | Relationship Building |
|------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 01-09-2020 | Community Healthcare Alliance | CO-OP Supervisor and team , to meet and discuss collaboration and services. |
| 01-21-2020 | Place of Promise | CO-OP Supervisor, and team, to meet and discuss collaboration and services. |

Additional

- First round interviews for the Clinical Recovery Specialist position were held the first week of January and second round interviews were held the third week of January. Candidate recommendation has been made.
- Lowell CO-OP brochure is being finalized. Once finalized, will be printed and distributed.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- Lowell Public Library
- Lowell Career Academy
- Lowell City Council
- Trinity EMS
- Lowell House Inc.
- Lowell Housing Authority
- Healthy Streets
- Hunger Homeless Commission
- MVRTA
- Lowell Community Health Center
- Office of the City Manager
- Lowell CO-OP
- Department of Planning & Development
- Lowell Street Department
- Lowell Police Department
- Lowell Parks Department

Community Events Attended:

- 12/13 Greater Lowell Opioid Task Force
- 12/17 Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA)
- 12/18 Lowell Housing Authority
- 12/19 South Common Village Tenant Association – (Sharps Education & Outreach)
- 12/20 Lowell SSP Stakeholders Meeting
- 1/7 Lowell Career Academy
- 1/10 Greater Lowell Opioid Task Force
- 1/22 Homeless Providers Coordination Meeting

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- Hunts Falls Bridge
- South Common Park
- Concord River
- George Street
- North Common Park
- Point Park
- Favor Street
- Thorndike Overpass
- Bridge Street Park
- Lowell Justice Center
- Eastern Canal Park
- River Bike Path
- Rogers Street Bridge
- La Lachuer Park
- Lincoln Street

Syringe Collection Activity 2019 and 2020

| Total Number Of... | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan 1 st -22 nd | Total |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|--|--------------|
| Discarded syringe pick-up requests* | 8 | 6 | 8 | 21 | 22 | 35 | 38 | 22 | 8 | 12 | 180 |
| Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests** | 6 | 22 | 21 | 17 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 134 |
| Syringes picked-up while responding to <u>all</u> discarded syringe pick-up requests | 49 | 240 | 334 | 265 | 157 | 337 | 322 | 113 | 22 | 290 | 2,129 |
| Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events | 0 | 11 | 75 | 49 | 16 | 131 | 161 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 433 |
| Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community | 493 | 967 | 488 | 1231 | 895 | 1040 | 845 | 896 | 635 | 838 | 8,328 |
| Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community | 9 | 20 | 25 | 29 | 41 | 49 | 35 | 44 | 27 | 33 | 294 |

**Discarded syringe pick-up request from City Employees (ie. police, fire) and Trinity EMS.*

***Discarded syringe pick-up request from Lowell residents.*

Community Outreach Educator
Linda Bellantoni

Linda's role focuses on enhancing the outreach efforts of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- Linda built relationships with the following community partners:
 - THRIVE
 - Megan's House
 - Lowell Senior Center
 - Pollard Memorial Library
 - Veterans Center
 - Lowell CO-OP

Community Events Attended:

- 1/7 Greater Lowell Health Alliance –Substance Use Prevention. Saints Campus-Lowell General Hospital
- 1/10 District Attorney's Opioid Task Force
- 1/15 "Morning with Millie" Mayors Reception Room-City Hall
- 1/22 Lowell Community Health Center- Teen Block Open House.
- 1/23 Center for Family Therapies

Outreach Education:

- 1/29 Middlesex Community College - Wellness Wednesday
 - Topics of focus will include signs of an opioid overdose and Syringe Collection Program
- 2/17 Lowell Kids Week (*kids and parents*)
 - Topics of focus will include safe syringe disposal/storage and medication disposal